Amendments to the Claims:

1.-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A server for developing, producing, or configuring engineering an automation system, comprising:

a remote client comprising a Web browser;

a storage system in the server, in which files are stored in a first format that cannot be processed by the Web browser, the files being needed or created for the production or configuration of engineering the automation system; and

a communications interface in the server via which a the remote client accesses the files, wherein the interface comprises first means for converting and transmitting to one or more remote clients the remote client a copy of selected ones of the files in a second format comprising HTML or DHTML or XML or JavaScript or SVG, that can be processed by the Web browser of the remote client, and the interface comprises second means for receiving files created or modified from each remote client, converting the received files into the first format, and storing the received files into the storage system in the first format;

wherein the selected ones of the files in the second format are modified by the remote client.

28. (currently amended) The server of claim 27, wherein a plurality of clients including the remote client access the files, and further comprising a security device in the server that authorizes a specific selection of the files to each of the clients by password interrogation.

29. (previously presented) The server of claim 28, further comprising an access management device in the server that resolves conflicts when first and second clients attempt to simultaneously access a given file by locking the given file for access by only the first client, and indicating a locked status to the second client.

30. (previously presented) The server of claim 29, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until the earliest requesting client releases the file.

31. (previously presented) The server of claim 29, wherein the access management device coordinates access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the file, then notifies the earliest requesting client of the later requesting client, and allows the earliest requesting client to choose to retain access or release it.

32. (previously presented) The server of claim 29, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by assigning different access priorities to different clients, locks the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the given file, then compares the access priorities of the earliest and later requesting clients, and if the later requesting client has higher access priority than the earliest requesting client, notifies the earliest requesting client that access to the given file will be switched to the later requesting client, otherwise continuing to reserve the given file for the earliest requesting client.

33. (currently amended) A server for engineering and configuring an automation system, comprising:

a memory in the server for storing files for engineering and configuring the automation system, wherein the files are stored in a first format that can be processed by the server; and

an interface in the server for providing network access to the files by a client comprising a Web browser, the client being remote from the server, wherein the Web browser cannot process files in the first format, wherein the interface comprises:

a first means for making a copy of selected files in the memory, converting the copy to a second format that can be processed by the Web browser in the client, and transmitting the copy in the second format to the client; and

a second means for receiving files created or modified by the remote client, converting the received files from a received format into the first format, and storing them in the memory;

wherein the selected files in the second format are modified by the remote client.

34. (previously presented) The server in accordance with claim 33, wherein:

the remote client is embodied as a browser-based client that communicates with the interface via an Internet or Intranet data line;

the first and second means provide conversion means for graphics files and conversion means for text files;

the conversion means for graphics files converts graphics files stored in the memory into an SVG format that can be processed by the remote client and vice versa; and

the conversion means for text files converts the text files stored in the memory into a DHTML format that can be processed by the remote client.

35. (currently amended) The server in accordance with Claim 34, further comprising an access management device, which, if more than one remote client accesses a file stored in the memory, only allows access to the file by one of these remote clients.

36. (currently amended) The server of claim 33, wherein a plurality of clients <u>including the remote client</u> access the files, and further comprising a security device in the server that authorizes each client access to a specific selection of files in the memory by password interrogation of each client, and an access management device in the server that keeps a log of which of the clients is accessing which of the files, and provides conflict resolution when more than one client simultaneously requests access to a specific file.

37. (previously presented) The server of claim 36, wherein the access management device that resolves conflicts when first and second clients attempt to simultaneously access a given file by locking the given file for access by only the first client, and indicating a locked status to the second client.

38. (previously presented) The server of claim 37, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until the earliest requesting client releases the file.

39. (previously presented) The server of claim 37, wherein the access management device coordinates access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the file, then notifies the earliest requesting client of the later requesting client, and allows the earliest requesting client to choose to retain access or release it.

40. (previously presented) The server of claim 37, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by assigning different access priorities to different clients, locks the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the given file, then compares the access priorities of the earliest and later requesting clients, and if the later requesting client has higher access priority than the earliest requesting client, notifies the earliest requesting client that access to the given file will be switched to the later requesting client, otherwise continuing to reserve the given file for the earliest requesting client.

41. (new) The server of claim 33, wherein the first format is not HTML and not DHTML and not XML and not SVG and not JavaScript.

42. (new) The server of claim 27, wherein the first format is not HTML and not DHTML and not XML and not SVG and not JavaScript.